

In the Claims:

1. (Original) A bacterial growth inhibitor or a bacteriostatic agent against thermo acidophilic bacilli (TAB), comprising a puree or a fruit juice obtained from an acerola (*Malpighia emerginata* DC.) fruit as an active ingredient thereof.
2. (Original) A bacterial growth inhibitor or bacteriostatic agent against thermo acidophilic bacilli (TAB) according to claim 1, comprising a dried substance of the puree or the fruit juice obtained from the acerola fruit as an active ingredient thereof.
3. (Currently amended) A bacterial growth inhibitor or bacteriostatic agent against thermo acidophilic bacilli (TAB) according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the puree or the fruit juice obtained from the acerola fruit is desugared.
4. (Currently amended) A bacterial growth inhibitor or bacteriostatic agent according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein the thermo acidophilic bacilli (TAB) are bacteria belonging to the genus *Alicyclobacillus*.
5. (Original) A bacterial growth inhibitor or bacteriostatic agent according to claim 4, wherein the bacteria belonging to the genus *Alicyclobacillus* are *Alicyclobacillus acidoterrestris*, *Alicyclobacillus acidiphilus*, or *Alicyclobacillus herbarius*.
6. (Currently amended) A bacterial growth inhibitor or bacteriostatic agent according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, which is to be added to food or drink.

7. (Original) A food or drink comprising the bacterial growth inhibitor or bacteriostatic agent of claim 6.

8. (Original) Use of a puree or a fruit juice obtained from an acerola fruit, a desugared substance thereof, or a dried substance thereof, for the purpose of inhibiting or blocking bacterial growth.

9. (Original) A method for manufacturing a food or drink, comprising a step of adding the bacterial growth inhibitor or bacteriostatic agent of claim 6.

10. (Original) A method for inhibiting or blocking a bacterial growth in a food or drink, comprising a step of adding the bacterial growth inhibitor or bacteriostatic agent of claim 6, into the food or drink.